

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A material handling system automatically delivers batches of product to an operator work-station on an “as required” or “on demand” basis for manual processing by the operator, and automatically delivers individual packing containers to the work-station on an “as required” or “on demand” basis for filling with the product after manual processing by the operator. Each batch of product is typically supplied in a batch container, and the system may automatically dispatch the batch containers on an “as required” or “on demand” basis after the operator has finished manually processing product from the containers. The system may also automatically dispatch product-filled packing containers from the work-station on an “as required” or “on demand” basis.